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PRICK

Feb/March 2012 - Vol. 12 Issue 3

Magazine

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plus coverage of:

*Lexington
Paradise
& Biloxi
Conventions*

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Sometimes you don't realize that something is broke until you fix it. We have been talking about a lot of possible mergers and new mags coming out and we have launched a PRICK hometown throwback mag called Ink Atlanta. We have been meeting with a lot of other publishers and are actively working on previously mentioned projects. All the efforts thus far, though, have truly been in vain except for getting it all out of my system. The local tattoo politics in Atlanta almost made me walk away from the industry entirely, and I am actually putting Ink Atlanta out of print because of it. With that being said, I am refocusing my attention to PRICK and this one new project (that I can't give info on quite yet).

We have also made some staff changes and will be injecting some fresh blood into our pages as a result. I would like to welcome Kasey Swinford, Matt Woody and Harrison Knolle to the family. They will be splitting up the editorial and Kasey will be taking over sales and customer service. Jessica Hill, aka J.J. Diablo, will no longer be part of the inner sanctum of the PRICK family. She is off to develop her Ink 4 Pink organization and pursue other avenues.

We don't get many, but one complaint we've been hearing lately is that PRICK magazine is getting too thin. That is in part due to the economy, being stiffed on a bunch of ads over the years, and production and shipping costs being greater than our revenue coming in. After launching Ink Atlanta on the PRICK throwback tip (printed on a heavy stock newsprint) and getting positive feedback that it feels more like a community paper that people relate to more, we decided to incorporate that paper back in to the fold. By doing this we were able to increase our page count by nearly 30%, going up 16 pages from last month without incurring a lot of extra costs. Hopefully it will be a welcomed tradeoff.

So enjoy this fat PRICK (magazine). We look forward to a bigger and better 2012!
Chuck B.



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CHECK OUT OUR AD RATES AND SPECS ONLINE AT: www.prickmag.net

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ON THE COVER:

Nikki Forte

by **ROBERT PARKEY III**

Inset photo Mastodon

by **CINDY FREY**

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Atlanta Tattoo Studio Inks for Autism

BY CHRIS J. SONTAL

Jason Cristal, a native of Atlanta, does not look like your typical member of the tattoo community. He is normally seen in coat and tie, with no visible tattoos. However, he is making his mark on the tattoo community as well as another important, yet overlooked community. Jason serves as co-chair for Georgia's Walk Now for Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks is the world's largest autism science and advocacy organi-



zation and produces the nation's largest grassroots autism walk program. In Georgia, Walk Now for Autism Speaks is a joint partnership between Autism Speaks and The Marcus Autism Center, the country's largest center for clinical care of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. Now approaching its sixth year, the Georgia Walk has become a signature fundraising and awareness event, with this year's Walk taking place on May 20 in downtown Atlanta.

Over the last five years, Jason, who does not have any children diagnosed with Autism, has helped to raise nearly \$40,000 for Autism Speaks. As part of his 2012 fundraising efforts, Jason has teamed up with Inkaholiks Luxury Tattoo Parlor to help raise funds and awareness for autism. Now through May 2012, Inkaholiks will open its doors to the autism community and feature several pre-designed tattoos that will be available for patrons to choose from. Of the pre-designed tattoos, 60 percent of all the proceeds will go directly to Autism Speaks.

Jason plans to be the first person in the chair to mark his dedication to this cause and hope others will join him.

Q: How did you get involved with Autism Speaks?

The first year of the Georgia Walk, I got a postcard in the mail about the event. My wife and I thought it would be a good event to be a part of, as we had always found a cause to support each year.

The second year is when my involvement became serious. My daughter, now six, has always had "developmental delays" and has never reached certain childhood milestones. Shortly after signing up for the Walk in year two, her neurologist misdiagnosed her with autism and sent us to The Marcus Autism



Artist Kylie Greene, Jason Cristal and Inkaholiks owner/NFL star Uche Nwaneri

Center here in Atlanta. Now it was personal. My wife and I raised nearly \$16,000 and had an outpouring of support from family, friends, and what I now call the autism community. Since then I have gotten more involved in Autism Speaks each year, and finally, after being asked several times, agreed to co-chair this year's event.

Q: So you are raising funds and awareness of autism because of your daughter's diagnosis?

Well, partially. Ultimately it was determined that Becca is not autistic, though she has some similar characteristics. During our journey and initial diagnosis we were touched by the support of so many who had a similar story to tell about their child. The number of autism diagnoses continues to grow, and I felt a calling to help those along their journey with Autism.

Q: How did you decide on a tattoo fundraiser?

I have to admit, I did not come up with the idea. I saw it on one of those TV shows. They were doing tattoos for cancer if I remember correctly. I figured, why not do it for autism? The logo for Autism Speaks (blue puzzle piece) makes for a simple tattoo.

Q: How did you team up with Inkaholiks?

Quite simply, I asked. I posted a "plea for help" on Ink Atlanta's Facebook page, and Inkaholiks answered the call. I have to give special thanks to Shane Perry and Uche Nwaneri, the owners, for enthusiastically saying, "Yes!"

Q: How will your fundraiser work?

Anyone can walk-in or schedule an appointment at Inkaholiks. Select from the designs that the artists at Inkaholiks have helped design. Done. 60 percent goes to Autism Speaks. I am hopeful for support from the tattoo community as well as people who have never before considered getting a tattoo, but would now do so for such a great cause. People can also donate online at www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/georgia/cristalscruisers

Q: Will you be getting a tattoo?

Absolutely! I am working with the Inkaholiks artists on a special, personal design that incorporates the Autism Speaks blue puzzle piece logo. I will be the first in the chair! ★





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Paradise Tattoo Gathering

Jiminy Peak, MA

BY CHUCK B.

Sadly, this was the first year I have attended the four-year-running Paradise Tattoo Gathering at Jiminy Peak. "Last year we took a break from the Tattoo Gathering, but with the encouragement of a few tattooers we decided to host the Paradise Artist Retreat" says retreat producer Gabe Ripley. "We are moving the Paradise Tattoo Gathering west to The Rocky Mountains next year. After four years here at Jiminy Peak, it is time for The Gathering to check out other parts of the world and Keystone, Colorado is the next stop for the tattoo convention."

First off, the Gathering is not your typical convention. It is more of an artist and collector retreat and seminar forum. Miles and miles from real civilization in an off-season ski resort, only the true collector and master artists were in attendance. Not a lot of walk-up random customers here, but all the artists in attendance had a customer there to partake in the retreat. There were no attitudes, only art and the creation thereof. Live painting workshops ran the whole weekend and the work created was amazing. Tattooists in attendance included artists Kyle Cotterman, Caesar, Tanane Whitfield, Stefano/Tattoo Society, Cory Ferguson, BJ Betts, Gunnar, Tony Ciavarro, Big Gus, Bob Tyrrell, Megan Hoogland, Todo, Myke Chambers and Dan Henk.



The Paradise posse'

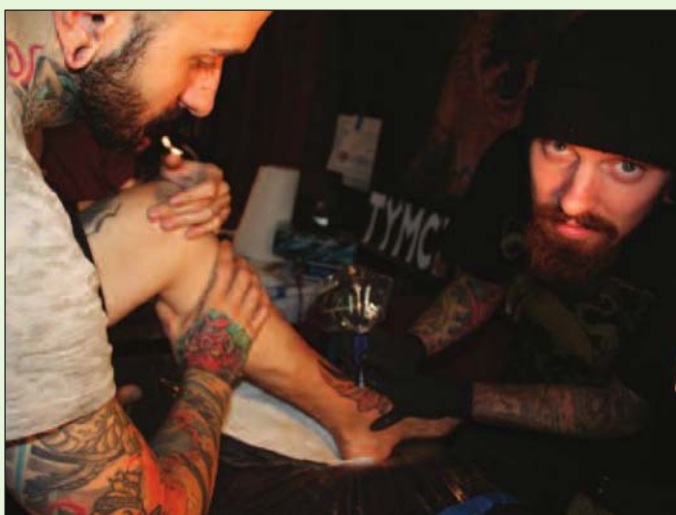


The after parties rocked every night

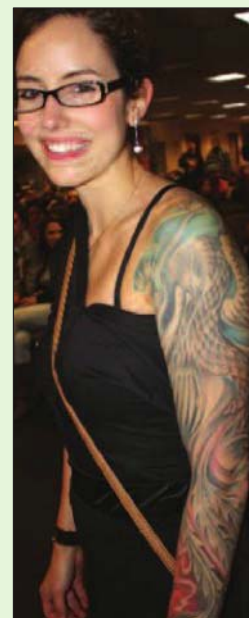
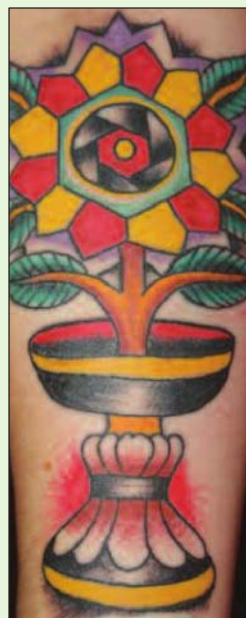


Durb Morrison ripping the Alpine Super Slide

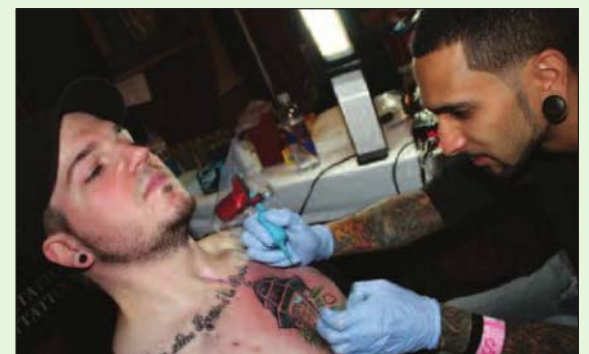




Above from left: Maria Vega's 2-day sleeve by Tony Mancia, Charles Greenberg's underwater land by Mike Cole, Faith Broache's Lemur-bird by Nick Squires and Victorian-framed leg piece by Thea Duskin. Ty Mcewen tattoos this Bio-Mechanical piece on Ken Monico. Below: Kara Olin shows off Evan Olin's blue jay and flowers, Mike Romasco's skull and rose medley by John Montalvo, Kyle Staub's Graffiti can by Kelly Gormley, Mandi C.'s challace by Robert Ryan. Winning best original is Lindsay Hall with a phoenix by Marco Ventura



Paradise Continued



Clockwise from top right: Bill Hicks portrait on Terry Gregoire. Cory Cudney tattooing a geometric arm design. Christian Perez detailing a chest piece. Gunnar tattooing sexy Amber and displaying a leg mixture on Max Rothert. Center: woman's face on Joanne Recupero by Alex De Pase.

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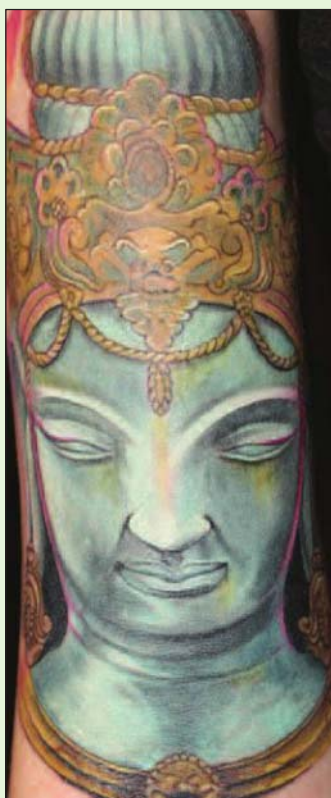
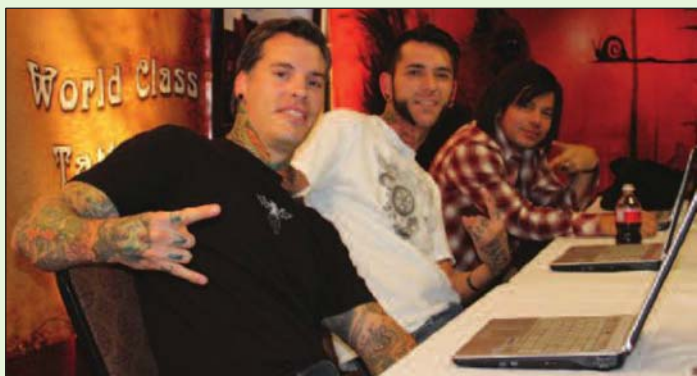
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Paradise Continued



Clockwise from top left:
Judges Pose, David's wolves by Todo. Katlin Foster's wolf on hand by Myke Chambers. Kara's Buddha by Chris Allan. Debbie Swift's parent portraits won 1st place Portrait by Stefano. Also by Stefano is Dan Sorino's dog portrait. Beth Biloki's lovebird by David Corden of the UK. Curt Everitt contended with his Queen Elizabeth I by Ryan Hadley.





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Clockwise from bottom left: Traditional by Adam Lauricella on Shane Cashman's foot, Owl (Lindsay Phaup), Ganesh (Krysten Pelstring), and winner of 2nd place Large Color (cupcake bombs on Britta Christianson) all courtesy of Tanane Whitfield. Elias Valdez wins both large B&G and best backpiece (not shown) by Big Gus. Justin Wilson's Muddy Waters by Kyle Cotterman. B&G biomechanical leg on Erik Campbell by Josh Duffy.

Paradise Cont.

At the Paradise Gathering, seminars and forums are at the forefront and included; Shawn Barber's Portrait Painting, Chris Dingwell's Painting Without Fear, 101 Tattoo Tips That Can Change Your Career Forever, Joe Capobianco's Lie, Cheat, and Steal, Oil Painting with Chet Zar, Workhorse Irons Machine Building Workshop, Bj Betts "lettering" seminar and too many more to list.

Aside from the world class art and seminars, the parties and surrounding mountain playground proved to be awesome as well. The Off the Map Party had live tuneage from Unicorn and Angry Johnny & the Killbillies. The TattooNOW party featured Honeyshine and Them There Ghosts and a Tattoo Movie Night. Durb Morrison and the Hell City Crew were there and we raged the downhill luge and gravity rollercoasters as other artists took advantage of the sky swing. Everyone had a blast! "There will be lots and lots of fun in the next few years with all the upcoming events, and we hope you can join us for the ride!" says Gabe. The next gathering will be held Feb 20-23 in Tamaya, New Mexico and then after that on Sept. 13 - 16 in Keystone Colorado.

For more info check out www.tattoogathering.com ★



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The 1st Annual Studio Ink Tattoo Expo, Lexington

BY CASSANDRE DECORTE

Lexington, Kentucky is the chosen city hosting the first annual Studio Ink Tattoo Exposition. Chad Sinkhorn, the expo's organizer, owns and operates Studio Ink Tattoo out of Danville, Kentucky. To celebrate ten years of outstanding business and service to inked-up tattoo junkies, Chad thought of no better way than to start a yearly tattoo convention!

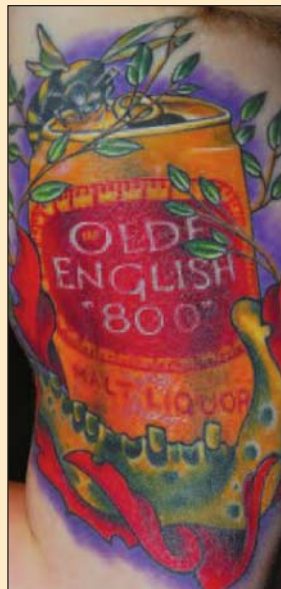
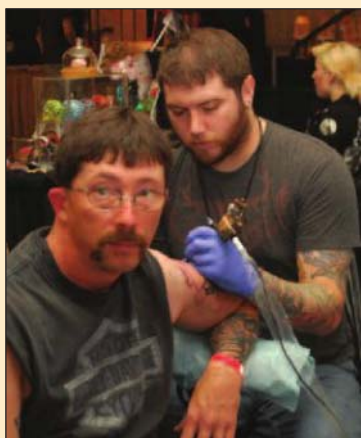
Traveling down a boulevard through Lexington left me reminiscing of the Northern United States. Large lumber baron mini-mansions set back in blue-grass-sodded lots, well-landscaped and maintained, lining either side of the roadway. This is the northernmost point of the South, I reckon. Among the architecture, it was apparent that I was definitely in Kentucky. The ride to town was edged with white horse farm fencing. Yes! I am in the land of der-



Above: 2nd place Color Tattoo of the Day by Billy Beans on Jerry Arnold.
Above right: Lenny Renken shows off his works' awards and in the midst of one on Trevor Balsbaugh.



Above: Bleed Blue Tattoo shows off! Alex Corusiello tattooing B. Merriman, Metal Mark displaying his classical art Tattoos by Jay Rush. Kevin Hamilton and Roger Pearson giving the goofy face



Clockwise from top left: Cheri Whitney showing off her body, which won several awards including Miss Tattoo! Michael M. winning 1st place B&G courtesy of Mr. Scary (CO). Josh Payne and Smurf accepting the award for tattoo of the day, another first place winner. Mark Sawyer with Pushing Ink pushes it with several awards won by Wes Fleming (deer and beer can) and David Snelling (ship). Jim Theue wins 2nd with his skull by Zaq Weaver.

Studio Ink Expo continued

bies and races galore! The Convention was held in mid-November at The Campbell House. Walking past the plantation-style columns and into the lobby, I was treated with good old-fashioned southern hospitality. The Campbell House is known for its traditional feel and close proximity to the Kentucky Horse Park.

The Studio Ink Tattoo Expo happenings were split between several areas of the accommodating hotel. This kept convention-goers burning calories from noon until night. The public and industry heads alike had their pick of many talented artists, including Nate Beavers, the Brenner family, Scott Winske and Todd Barlow. Celebrity-status Amy Nicoletto of LA Ink was there as well, and man was she keeping her appointment book filled. The contest categories were what you would expect at a convention, with several repeat winners, both artist and tattoo owner. Billy Beans, Chris Whitney, Lenny Renken and Mark Sawyer all saw multiple skateboard deck-embellished awards thanks to their magnificent hard work.

Hosting the convention was none other than Dr. Carl Blasphemy. This bald-headed, pink goatee-havin, foul-mouthed, microphone-clutching funnyman was the first member of the convention I met. He was more than helpful when it came to tracking down Chad and Rachel Sinkhorn. Dr. Blasphemy was a nice guy, in spite of the naughty title. Speaking of Rachel, Chad's wife and partner in crime, she was amazing. Imagine a little, sweet blonde scuttling around the convention floor at a rapid pace with camera and smile in tow. A special thank you from me to Rachel for all the help getting around that weekend.

As far as entertainment, well the music acts had an awesome nightclub venue to rock out in —inside the hotel! Bands participating included Primer 55 (whom you may have seen at Ozzfest), Freddie and the Cruegers, and Sixth Floor. Here too, was the incredible burlesque show, Rigor Mortis Revue. The ladies of the troop were quite sexy, and quite tattooed. Scarlett Storm and Smurf were among them, getting fresh tattoos from Steve Gatrost and Josh Payne, respectively. In fact, Smurf and Josh won 1st Place Color Tattoo of the Day with an amazing melting Gameboy on her forearm.

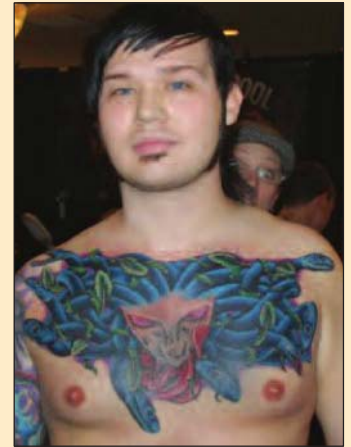
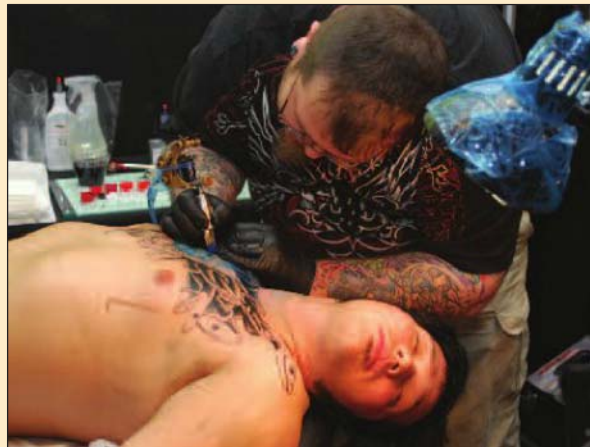
Also available were many fine pieces of art by various well-known artists, like Mark Carter and Dave Nestler. Mark had some amazing works for show and humorous anecdotes to tell. Don't forget the option of other forms of body modification, such as piercings. Beardmaster Tommy from Studio Ink Tattoo was in charge of putting holes in people that weekend. Anybody, any part, as long as you are 21. There was some law that made it impossible



Graham's ode to Spooky, his dog, by Barry Allen



Award winner Tim Reed tattooing Ryan Jackson. Joe Brenner working on Joe Burchett



Steven getting tattooed by Jon Good of Born This Way. Below Scarlett Storm and Desiree show off for the Miss Tattoo Contest



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Studio Ink Expo continued

for 18-20 year olds to get pierced. Whatever it was, it wasn't cool for customers or business.

Walking from booth to booth I saw a lot of idle time. Tattoo artists were spending their time waiting for a client by perfecting their artistic skills on paper, drawing out possible future tattoos. I saw many stunning images being created; I just wish I saw them on skin! So between tattoos and bands and beauties, convention folk can always visit the full bar, swimming pool, or take that much needed trip to nearby distilleries, including Wild Turkey, Maker's Mark and Woodford Reserve.

Overall, the expo was great. Nearly everyone I encountered was friendly and helpful. I can't wait for the crowd to build year after year. Too much talent is going to waste when fans don't come out to support the cause. So if you also attended the Studio Ink Tattoo Expo, tell your friends. I expect to see a growing number of attendees once the word gets out, or else! ★



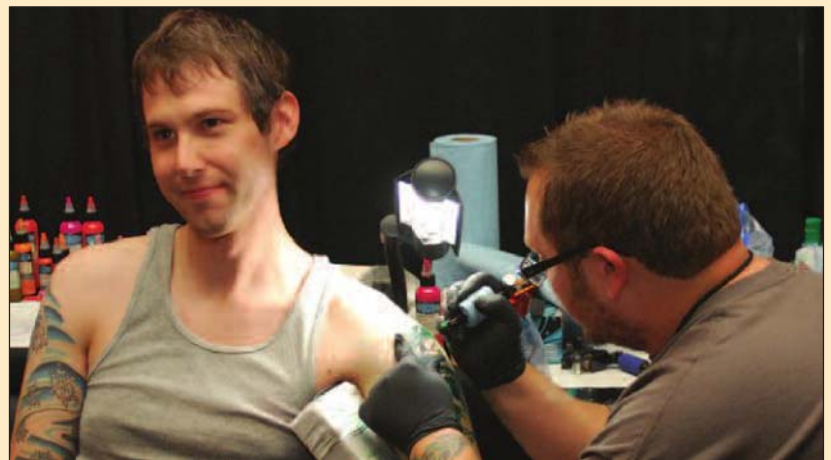
Fine artist Mark Carter saying hello, heart and sword contender



LA Ink's own Amy Nicoletto gives Laura Van Hyfte some beautiful flowers



Duncan Smith Shows me the skull menagerie on his legs courtesy of Billy Beans of Tatnice



Justin Robinson midway through tattooing a 9 to 5 Dino on Adam Schweiss
Below: Barry Allen constructing another dinosaur on Brian Monroe



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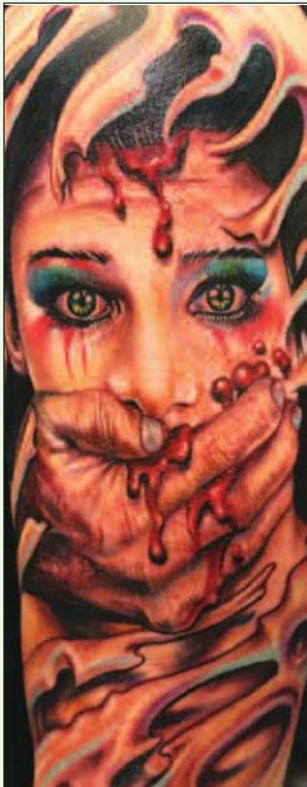
INKTOBERFEST BILOXI 2011

BY CHUCK B.

This past October 14th weekend, the second annual Inktoberfest Tattoo Convention of Biloxi, MS kicked off and kicked ass as far as my perspective goes. The convention was held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and hosted by Aaron Antonucci of Adrenaline Tattoo. The attendance level didn't break any records for conventions, but the vibe was great and most of the artists had steady customers. The area is still a ghost of it's former self, but the tourists are slowly coming back. I must say that the area casinos have provided some of the best gambling fun I have ever experienced. The people are great and everyone is still just glad you are there.



Top right: Convention host Aaron Antonucci with the pin-up contestants, late night bonfire on the beach.



Left and above: Ray LeBlanc's woman being silenced by Roman Abrego. Family First on Craig G. by Hose "The Inkfather" Sanchez. **Right:** Corey Popp's Scrabble tattoo by Timmy B. won Tattoo of the Day Saturday.



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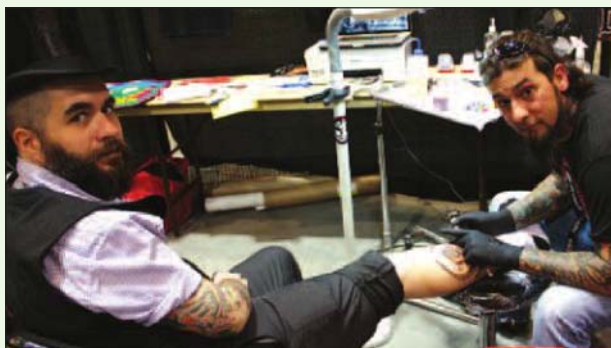
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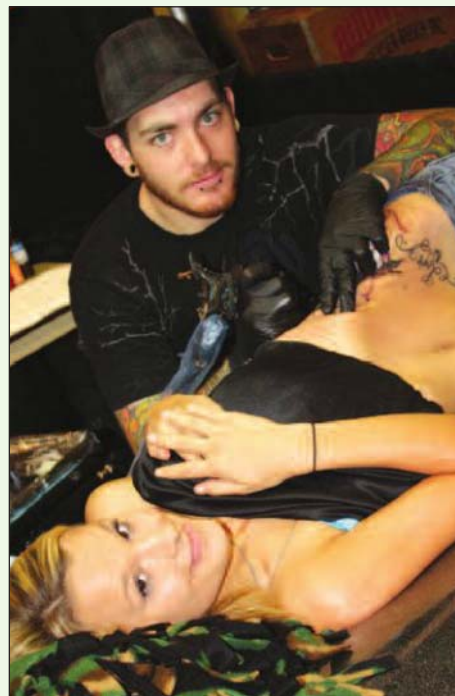
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Emcee dude and Roman on team mohawk. Tattoo Terry at work. Alex Guma of Planet Ink Tattoo shows his vintage collectables turned power supply. Eli Rothell's hitchhiking lizardworm tattoo by Levi Hilton. Robby Young's hand with rotary machine by Chris Howton.



INKTOBERFEST CONTINUED

The convention itself as a whole has a well-balanced ratio of art and entertainment. Friday consisted of Art Fusion, music and entertainment by F'n Aholes, Captain's Sideshow and Bash of the Band. Tattoo contests and Tattoo of the Day were held with trophies awarded that night. Saturday there was a Pin up Contest that actually had some smokin' hotties in it, and the Bedlamville Triflers provided some rock-a-billy goodness afterward. Tattoo contest went through the evening up to Tattoo of the Day. To end the night, everyone gathered across the street from the convention center for a gulf coast beach bonfire. People got sloppy by the fire in the sand and then Hunter S. Thompson'd their way through the casinos, myself included. It was a fantastic time...at least the parts that I can remember were.



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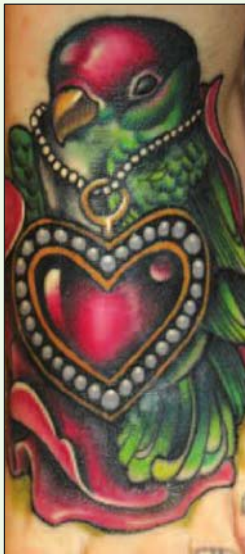
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INKTOBERFEST CONTINUED

CONTEST WINNERS:

Best Back Piece won by Ben Drawdy courtesy of Gabe Smith of Hula Moon. 1st place Small Color goes to Nick Marrero with Timmy B.'s key, lock and roses. 2nd place Black and Grey went to Kelly Carlisle for Joseph Pineda's skull. 2nd place Small Color won by Bailey Blair with her lovebird by Timmy B. 1st place Black and Grey won by Cameron Martinsen by Tommy Lee Wendtner. All Above: 1st and 2nd place Best Asian went to Kenneth Z. Tattoos by Chris Black.





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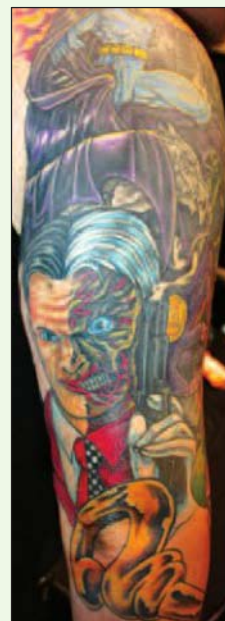
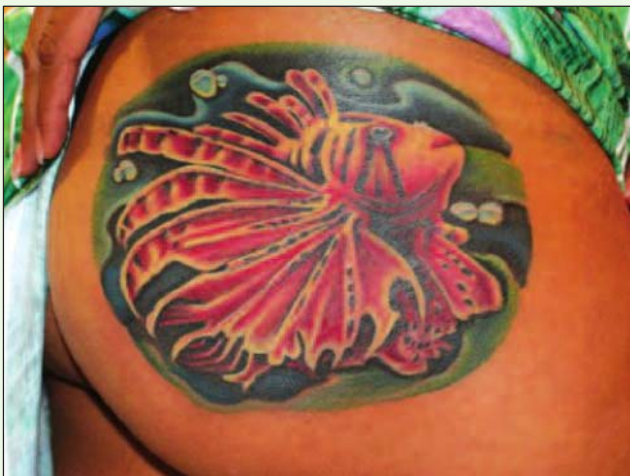


"AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT IN THE TATTOO COMMUNITY." – JEFF GOGUE

INKTOBERFEST CONTINUED



Jason Jones' scorpion and David Flood's Tusken Raider (Star Wars sandperson) both by "Famous Gabe" Smith. Heather Lee's Koi by Chip Baskin of Queen of Hearts Tattoo. Black and grey work by Brian Brenner. Octoskull on Amy Preston and Brittania O'Keefe's skull and rose both by Dave Clarke of Sacred Xpressions. From one Travis to another: Travis Thomason's scarecrow (done at show) and Batman montage by Travis Kelly of Planet Ink. Beautiful, yet deadly lionfish tattooed on Thiara Latiff's booty (also beautiful yet deadly) by Mister Matt



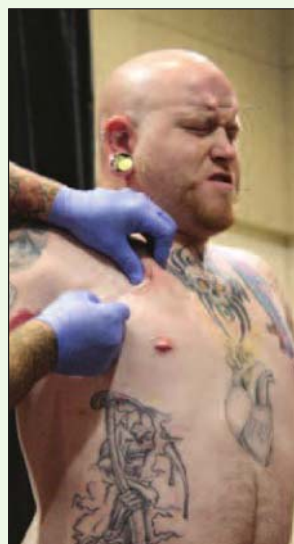
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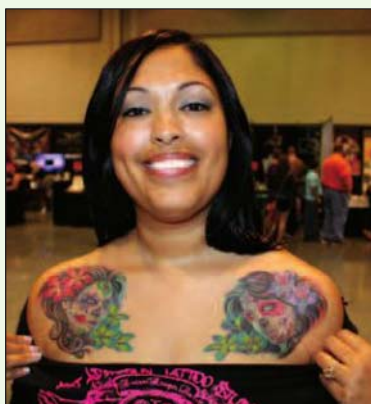
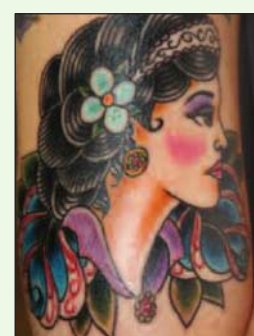


INKTOBERFEST

Clockwise from top left: The crowd cringes amusingly at the piercing sideshow. Aaron Antonucci hard at work with a pretty onlooker. Megan Munky's gypsy woman by Chip Laskin.

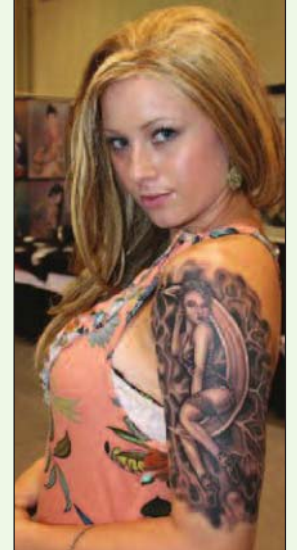
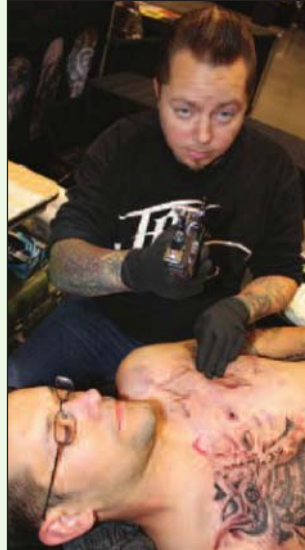
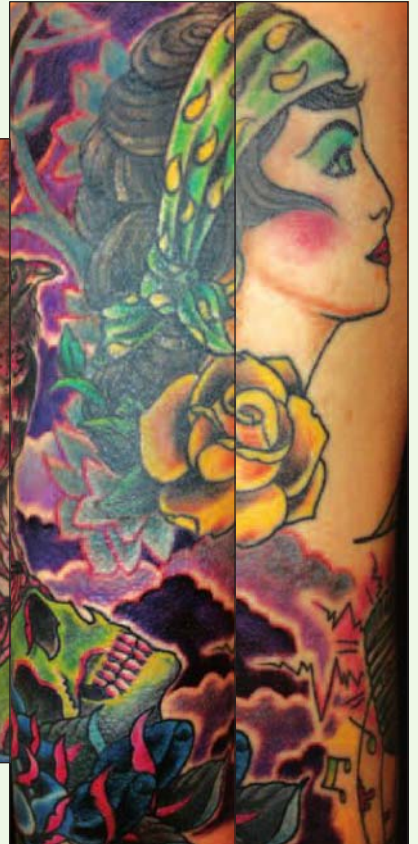
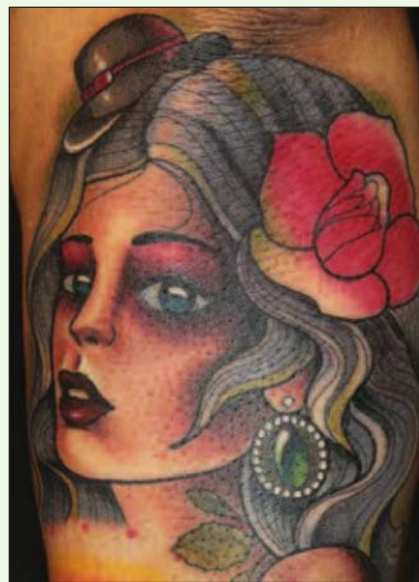
Pinup contest ladies showing it off. The Bedlamville Triflers rockin' out. Latasha Mix proudly displays her Day of the Dead Tattoos done by Richard Hart of Art Addiction Tattoo.

Nikki Forte blows a kiss



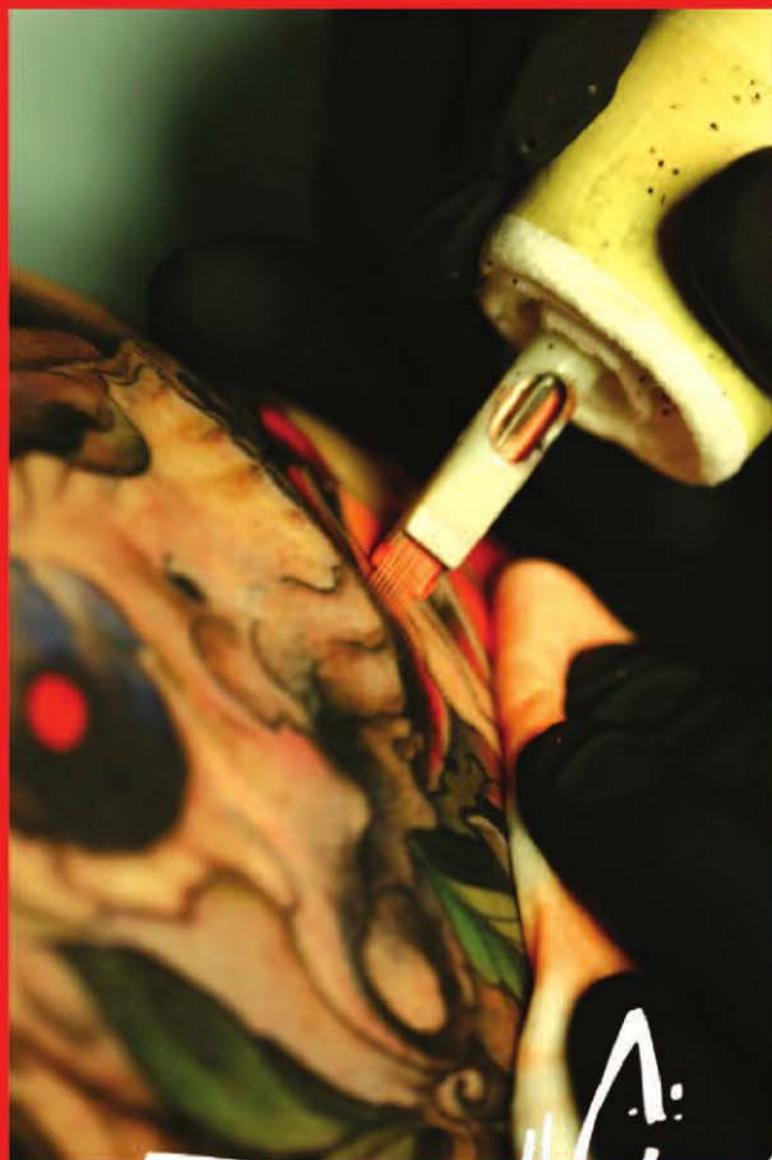
INKTOBERFEST CONTINUED

Skull/Face by Josh Adams on Aaron Dodson. Indiana Jones-style self portrait of Joe Burge by Ricky Caneness. The story goes that while Joe was dressed as Indiana Jones for halloween, he was jumped by three or more guys. There were guns and knives and massive injuries involved, but he fought them off and lived. Bette Midler face on Nick Marrero by Billy Toler. Lindsey Wolgast's bird and gypsy arm piece by Mister Ron. Danielle Boilure's piercing and lacing by Brandon Pearce.





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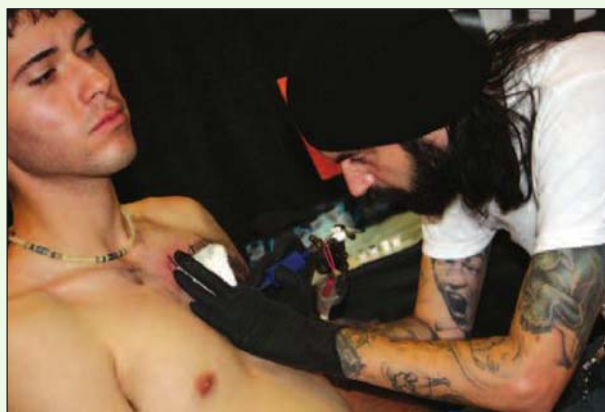
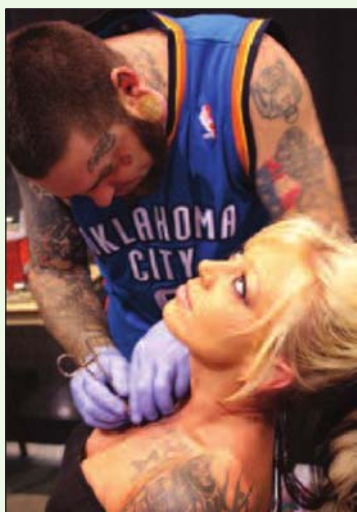
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Above: Award-winning body modification specialist Dustin Mathis of Sick Boyz Body Piercing and client. Eel tattoo on Ricky Ahmann by L.T. Woods



INKTOBERFEST CONTINUED

Sunday went off pretty much in the same way as the rest of the weekend, but everyone was truly worse to the wear from the night before that never seemed to end.

Artists and shops in attendance included Chip Baskin at Queen of Hearts, Takashi Matsuba, L.T. Woods and Roman at Artistic Elements, Josh Woods and Timmy B. of Black 13, Joe Savva of Electric Expressions, Dustin Mathis of Sick Boyz Body Piercing, Billy Toler of Cherry Bomb and Mondo Arroyo of Dead Kitten Crew.

All in all, though it is not the most packed-with-people convention in America, it is one of my favorites, especially with its producers being artists themselves and fans at the same time.

For more info check out www.inktoberfest.com ★



Above right: Truth and Triumph montage with Joe Brenner, Brian Brenner. Josh Wilson tattooing Bugg Reynolds a bacon-wrapped filet mignon. **Left:** Josh Dockery's skeleton by Chris Howton.

NIKKI FORTE

BY J.J. DIABLO PHOTOS BY BY CHUCK B.
AND ROBERT PARKEY III

A veritable Jane of All Trades, Nikki Forte is truly a modern day marvel of womanhood. Beautiful, smart, sexy and an incredible multi-tasking machine, this Dayton, Ohio maven runs circles around many others who dare to think they're at her level. Add to that some pretty phenomenal tattoo art and you've got one delicious Hell Cat on Wheels! We had the privilege of interviewing Ms. Forte to find out more. One can only wish we had even more time . . .



Q: How did you first discover tattoos?

My dad had a few tattoos and so did one of my favorite aunts. So tattoos were not an oddity to me growing up. I can't say that there was one pivotal moment when I decided to

get tattooed. I think it was always in me to be covered in ink.

Q: What made you want to become more heavily tattooed?

Why do something only half assed?! I figured if I am going to go to amazing artists and have great work put on me I better do it right and make my whole body a walking work of art. Go big or go home.

Q: How have you managed to balance a career and tattoos?

Fortunately for me, having the tattoos and piercings I do has not hindered my ability to have an amazing job and successful career. It took me awhile to figure out the right career path for me (through lots of trial and error . . . mostly error), but when I started to find my niche, balancing my lifestyle and work got easier and easier.

Q: What do you say to those who may think tattoos equal less job opportunity?



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NIKKI FORTE CONTINUED

I have been getting work since 2000 (so about 12 years). I have had lots of good jobs and when they hired me on it was because I could do the work well, had a good attitude and if they asked, respectfully covered my work in front of customers/clients. Getting tattoos is my decision and lifestyle and I know it's not for everyone. I will not force others to accept that about me in a professional environment.

I now have more freedom to show the work I have and it is beneficial to the career path I'm on now. I am blessed in that respect. I think if you have a good work ethic and attitude and take the time to seek out employment with companies that embrace you and the lifestyle you choose, success and work will come.

It's not easy for anyone these days, tattooed or not.

Q: What advice would you have for girls getting into modeling?

Take your time! Don't try to be too old too quickly and do a lot of work you're unsure about. Do what is comfortable and comes naturally. You don't have to be a size 0 to model, just be healthy, have a good attitude and work hard. Be professional and don't let others make you. Be your own person. People can see a good soul and hard work in your eyes, even in photos. Probably the most important thing I had to learn myself is this: there are no rules to fashion,



beauty or art. There is no right or wrong look. There is a niche and market for everything and everyone. Do what you love and do it with pride. Your audience/fans will follow.

Q: You've worked with the likes of Masuimi Max. What do you think has helped you excel with modeling to gain these opportunities?

To be honest I just wrote her an email and asked if we could shoot together. I told her I loved her work and I love Mo's photography style, so it was a win-win for me. I think being bold (yet respectful) and just contacting people I wanted to work with helped a lot. I also send work out daily to any place I want to seek exposure. I don't wait for opportunities to come, I try to seek them out and make it happen.



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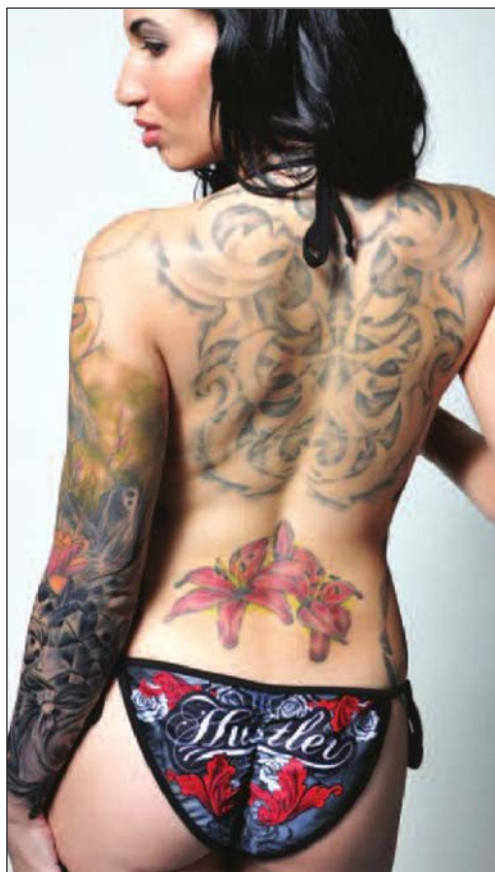


NIKKI FORTE CONTINUED



Q: Finally, what artists and/or shops are on your tattoo wish list?
I am happy exactly where I am. I love getting worked on by Brian [Brenner]. I also want work from a few of the other guys at the shop, Truth & Triumph, and already have a few new pieces planned out. I don't have a want to venture other places for now. I tried that before and found it's better for me to stick with where I feel at home.

For more of Nikki visit: <http://dropdeadsexypinup.com/> or check out her Facebook and Twitter pages! ★



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PAINLESS PAUL NELSON

BY J.J. DIABLO AND CHUCK B.

With the dozens of tattoo shops that have come and gone and the tried and true that hold strong in Atlanta, there are still only a handful of artists that touch the soul of the Atlanta tattoo community. Atlanta tattoo legend and Lord, Painless Paul Nelson, is one of these. His passing on the 23rd of December 2011 was a sad day for many, but we aim to inspire tribute in his honor and memory and through his body of work. PRICK has featured Painless Paul in coverage of his car shows, benefits and of course his work. Rather than speak for him, we would like to re-publish excerpts from his own artist interview to remember a great man in Atlanta tattooing through his own words, and educate young artists to the standard they're held to today.

-PAINLESS PAUL from past PRICK article:

Painless Paul Nelson is a legend in the Tattoo industry. He has been in the business longer than most of our readers have been alive. Some people like him, some people hate him, but Paul doesn't really give a shit. He tells it like it is and lives it like he tells it. He is one of the original tattooers of Atlanta. A badass biker turned capitalist. We sat around and talked for about four hours minus the thirty minutes it took him to do four tattoos! The following is actually a very shortened version of that days conversation. Some things you just can't print!

So how were the early days of tattooing in Atlanta?

It started with tattooing bikers, mostly bikers.

How stable was the industry?

I'd already suffered three years of not doing anything. I'd already went through the biker phase, making a lot of money, then back to nothing again. Then I was broke pretty much. Then the blacks was coming in to get tattooed and nobody around here wanted to tattoo them. And I said "money's green, and I don't give a shit what color they are". So I started to tattoo them and it just got to the point where Ace was the place to get tattoos. By



the time the rest of the shops caught on to what I was doing, I pretty much had the reputation. We were doing 50 to 75 tattoos a day. It went from one year to the next hardly doing nothin' to lining 'em up.

And then came the wave of all the new tattoo shops. So when did that start happening?

It started out there was me and George, and Dale Spatlin (a.k.a Dr. Tattoo). And now, I guess there was Tornado Tattoo and Tony Olivas. The new guys came in and they really pissed me off 'cause they were teaching guys to tattoo and then those guys were working for them and as soon as they learned what they wanted to know, they were off opening their own shops. And they were teaching people 'cause they didn't have enough tattoo artists. And as soon as they learned what they could learn, they were opening up shops. It was like a tree growing - it kept going and going and going. And Huck Spalding didn't help none by running the ads in the magazine [for tattoo equipment and kits] because back years ago, everything was really secretive. I went to Don Inman to ask him to teach me how to tattoo and he threw me out of the shop - I mean literally, literally tossed me out of the shop. I didn't go back for three years and he'd tattooed me for years and knew me well!

So you have gone from bikers to rockstars all the way to rappers. Who are some you have tattooed?

I did Tupac. I did the cross on his back. MC Hammer's band came in one night and I tattooed one of the guys. Greg Allman happened, too. There was so many rappers coming in, but at that time, there was so many people coming in, you didn't have time to stand there and bullshit with them. Goddamn assembly line going through there. I didn't even know I tattooed Tupac. I tattooed him and then he left, and then a girl come in, sat down in the chair and said "Next time Tupac's in here, give him my phone number," and she gave me her phone number and I said "Tupac? Who the hell's Tupac? Where's he at?" And I'd already tattooed him. I've tattooed a lot of sports people. Every person that comes into my shop is like any other person to me, whether they're famous or not. I don't treat them any different.

Your thoughts on tattooing in general...

I still like tattooing and I like art. There are some people out there that have perfect skin. Some people are like alligators. I'd sit and do a full body suit for free if I found that person with the perfect skin that would hold all the colors and shading and washes. If they would give me the time it took to do it right, why not? That would be for the art of it. Everybody just wants the quick fix. "How long is this going to take?" is the first thing most of my customers ask me. When you don't have the time it takes to do something, you can't tattoo the way you really want to. One woman came in and was braggin' about how she had just gotten this tattoo down the street at another shop and it only took three minutes! I told her she was full of shit, because I was the fastest tattooer on the East Coast! Nobody's faster than me. If I couldn't do it in three minutes, it couldn't be done. She told me about a tattoo she wanted and asked how long it would take. I told her five minutes and 45 seconds. We sat down and at five minutes I told her I was done, but I had 45 seconds to kill so I'll fuck around and give you a little more shading. Anybody else would have taken twenty or thirty minutes to do it.

The tattoos I do now are what I consider tattooing. Not art, no artwork at all, no artistic ability needed. Basic outline and fill it in - that was how it all began, that was tattooing. No washes or shading, none of that. Over the years, I went from basic tattooing of hard a line, into drifting lines off, doing washes, doing portraits, doing everything. It's kind of funny, I'm always telling people I started out tattooing then I got into the custom stuff and started doing some good work. That phase didn't last very long though, I wound up back to doing basic tattooing. After all the stuff that I've learned, thirty years of learning and tattooing, I'm right back to where I started from. I'm doing exactly what I was doing thirty years ago!

For more coverage on Painless Paul, visit:
<http://prickmag.net/feature.php?name=painlesspaulbenefit>
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MASTODON

THE CURL OF THE BURL

BY J.J. DIABLO PHOTOS BY CINDY FREY

Mastodon have never necessarily been small fish in music. Even as a local Atlanta band, they quickly developed a strong following worthy of a band name with such largesse. Well that local Atlanta band has now performed for audiences of the Late Show with David Letterman, Conan O'Brien and much more. With their latest musical endeavor, *The Hunter*, they've been nominated for a 2012 Grammy for Best Hard Rock/ Metal Performance for their latest single, *Curl of the Burl*. To quote the Official Mastodon website and bassist, Troy Sanders, "while their last four CDs explored complex themes rooted in earth's elements, *The Hunter* is more about following one's free will than a particular storyline. 'We've always had this umbrella or theme that we've written everything under,' says Troy. 'To us, it made sense as one cohesive story. This time, we

freed ourselves up to try something new. It was really the next step for us, and I'm glad we took it.'"

As PRICK featured the band years ago when they were the progressive metal band creating their own local waves, with all this success, how do the Mastodon boys handle it and how have things changed? We caught up with guitarist, Bill Kelliher, to ask just that.

When asked about the changes that come with fame and more mainstream recognition, Kelliher is quick to preface that it's pretty amazing to get off a bus and have a kid run up for a pic and autograph, explaining "They're the reason we are where we are." But while when at home in Atlanta, the boys still frequent their favorite spots, like Little Five Points El Myr, there are strange prices to fame. "Once a fan got my

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MASTODON



The Hunter surely does not disappoint. Kelliher notes that for *The Hunter*, they were free to "kind of wing it" as they were truly "free to do whatever [they] wanted."

phone number and called our house in the middle of the night. That wasn't cool." He does note that having other kids recognize him while he's dropping his kids off for school is a fun experience though.

Since their cult reference to the Dancing Outlaw, Jesco White, in the intro of *Hail to Fire*, to the breakthrough album, *Crack the Skye*, putting Mastodon truly on the international map, what can fans now expect from their 5th studio release, *The Hunter*? Besides all around solid, as some have called 'sludge metal' music, Kelliher describes the LP as a "slight change in direction," elaborating that every album has been "a snap shot in time of where the band is" and that *The Hunter* is "less tricked out technically, less themed" and that they simply "wrote songs for the sake of writing songs." And write they did. Rich in "more up-tempo" rhythms with "short bursts of energy and more focused on the groove," *The Hunter* surely does not disappoint. Kelliher notes that

for *The Hunter*, they were free to "kind of wing it" as they were truly "free to do whatever [they] wanted."

Now into their World Tour with Red Fang and currently tearing through Europe, he's optimistic about touring, saying that "everyone is in a good mood. It's good to get into new clubs and be the main attraction," adding that the show is "getting back to basics." Basically, they will rock your faces off by themselves without any graphics necessary.

One new addition to note is more fan interaction with the band on a digital and artistic level. Now through February 29th, Mastodon is taking banner art submissions inspired by single, *Dry Bone Valley*, to be featured on their website and social media, complete with a cash prize to boot. The winner will not only enjoy an ego boost of being able to say that Mastodon and featured *The Hunter* cover artist, Tim Biskup, hand picked his or her work, but will also gain \$1000 cash for their efforts. Even more generous is this contest is not a one trick pony. The runner-up and one People's Choice winner with the most votes will each receive a spot in a Mastodon photo gallery and \$500 each. If that doesn't get your creative juices flowing, then no amount of additional beer, lava lamps or other mind enhancing psychotropics are going to, though we hear the combination of such while listening to *The Hunter* may create the kind of experience Hunter S. Thompson himself could only dream of. Only one way to find out (No we're not endorsing drugs,



but we are 100% endorsing the highest caliber of music found on *The Hunter* and all of the awesome it can bring to your expanded consciousness.) Afterwards, visit <http://www.talent-house.com/design-for-mastodon>, and click "Get Started" to review guidelines and submit your work. The voting for all submissions will run through the week of March 1st to March 7th, culminating in the announcement of winners (and 3 talented fans potentially pissing themselves) on March 14th.

If you're one of the digitally inept like myself, you can still enjoy more Mastodon by tuning in to the 54th Grammy Awards Feb. 12th at 8pm on CBS and watch they boys go up against Foo Fighters, Megadeth, Sum 41 and Dream Theater in their first Grammy nod, surely not to be their last.

Mastodon will kick off a second U.S. tour in April to catch dates and cities they haven't already hit during their Fall run. For tour dates, merch and to purchase *The Hunter*, visit: <http://www.mastodonrocks.com/> ★

TRAVIS BROWN

BY HARRISON KNOLLE

This month we bring you the fun-loving and hilarious Travis Brown out of Aces High Tattoo shop in West Palm Beach, FL. In recent years Brown has made a name for himself by producing exemplary neo-traditional tattoos, plus a plethora of just plain outstanding work. After spending hours and hours just hanging out in shops and playing the shop bitch role, Brown apprenticed under Trevor Wilson and Jason Ackerman. The rest as they say is rock n' roll history.

Q: What was your first experience with the tattoo industry?



My first experience with the tattoo industry was on my 18th birthday, September 18, 2001. Little did I know that day, this industry would soon become the biggest influence in my life. Looking back on that day, I would have never expected this outcome. It's funny how everything happens for a reason.

Q: What made you decide to become heavily tattooed?

Honestly, because I wanted and needed something different in my life. Plus chicks dig dudes with tattoos right? Haha, but on more of a serious note, if I didn't spend all that time being a shop rat, I most likely never would have gotten my foot in the door.



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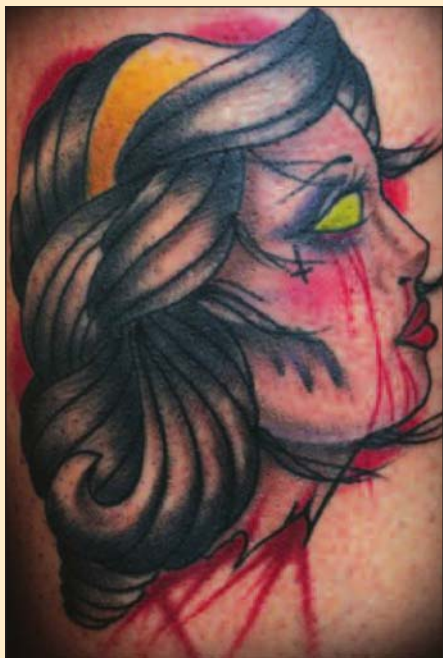
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TRAVIS BROWN CONTINUED

Q: What was it like trying to break into the scene to get an apprenticeship, and who took you on?

For my apprenticeship, I ran into a bit of luck in the sense that I knew someone who worked in a shop that needed some extra help. So that was my ticket in. Initially I was under the impression that this shop I was working for was legit, but as time went on, I slowly realized that these guys wore clown shoes. Luckily, two and a half years later, I got re-apprenticed by Trevor Wilson and Jason Ackerman. Soon after, things started to look up, and my career was heading in the right direction. Things seem to continue to get better and better. I feel really blessed.



TRAVIS BROWN

Q: What advice would you have for other young artists looking to better themselves?

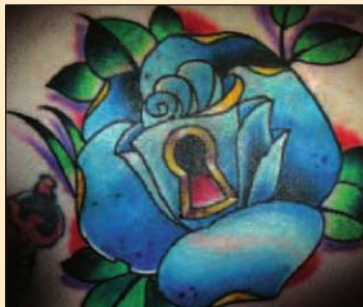
Quit now and give us old' guys a fighting chance! LOL. No but seriously, just always be humble and view every single tattoo as a valuable learning experience. Always do your homework, never be scared to branch out with other mediums and most importantly, stay motivated.

Projects or big plans on the horizon?

Besides global domination, and extinguishing every Arachnid on the face of the planet? No. LOL. Really, I want to start traveling internationally and continue to grow with my painting. Keep an eye out for my new sketchbook and other projects coming out this March through KingPin Tattoo Supplies. P.S. A big thank you for all of you who bought my first sketchbook and to Eternal Ink for just being awesome!

Where can we see more of your work or even contact you for an appointment?

You can find me at Aceshightattooshop.com or find me on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1143156691>. Also keep your eyes peeled for my new website with my convention and guest spot schedules, TravisBrownTattoos.com. ★



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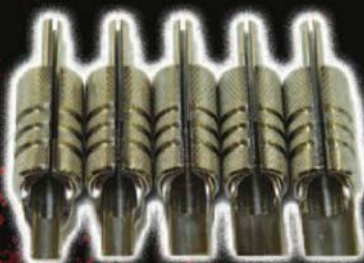
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FILL UP ON SOME DIESEL

BY MATT WOODY

Located along Highland Avenue in Atlanta's Virginia Highlands neighborhood, Diesel has stood as a premiere spot for laid-back locals to enjoy themselves for three and a half years now. Owned and operated by Justin Haynie, developing a brand to stand out from the hundreds of other bars and restaurants in town wasn't an overnight task. After scouring many different areas of Atlanta to find the right spot, Haynie chose Virginia Highlands as



Diesel's home. Justin and his father have been restoring classic cars for many years (photos can be seen around Diesel). With gear-head styling and décor, the restaurant/bar makes an excellent addition to the vibrant strip.

Continuing the greaser and pinup theme seen throughout the restaurant, many of the staff proudly show off their collection of tattoos. While Justin himself was quick to let me know he had none, it's still very encouraging to see a full staff showing off what they love dearly: kick-ass ink. Whether it's a full arm piece or playful, albeit undead, My Little Pony, you're sure to see some really cool tattoos inside Diesel.

But a hot rod theme isn't the only lifestyle image that Diesel promotes. Since its season 1 premiere, the restaurant has hosted viewing parties for the ever popular, Atlanta-based television show, *The Walking Dead*. A big fan of the original comic series, Justin jumped at the opportunity for his restaurant to become a major hangout for hardcore fans of



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DIESEL CONTINUED

the zombie thriller. Aside from simply featuring the show on all television, trivia, merchandise giveaway and charity donations create an interactive experience for fans. Additionally, regular cast members, extras and camera crew have been known to make appearances on Sunday nights. For the last episode, actors who played zombies did a Q&A with viewers, so it's safe to say that Diesel is your best choice for *The Walking Dead* parties.

As you read this issue, you will have just missed Diesel's January 31st Bacon and Beer event. This V.I.P(ig) event is the Highland Avenue restaurant's highlight event of the season, and for only \$25, you get a five course Scottish meal with Highland Brewing keg sipping priorities. If this is triggering a sensor on your taste buds like it is for me, you won't have to wait long for another eventful dining experience at Diesel. Quarterly events welcome new seasons and atmospheres, therefore, large organized events are always "coming up." In mid-June, the restaurant/bar celebrates their fourth anniversary. If you want to get out and check Diesel before then, Tuesdays are retro game night, including tournament setups, prizes, board games, cult movie showings and more. Thursdays are sex, drugs and rock and roll trivia night, so you best bring your A-game! ★



A few Diesel staffer's tattoos



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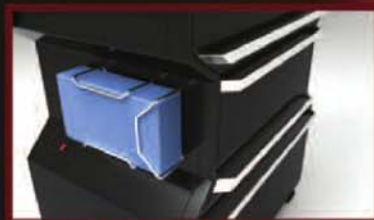
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